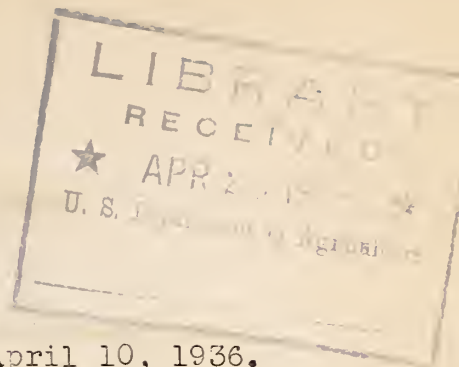


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

752F
United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Foreign Agricultural Service
Washington, D. C.



FS
A-446

April 10, 1936.

FOREIGN NEWS ON FRUIT

The Argentine Fresh Fruit Export Season

Summary: A considerable increase in Argentine fresh fruit exports is expected this season, according to a communication from Paul O. Nyhus, Agricultural Attache at Buenos Aires. With an upward trend in fruit crops in prospect and a larger crop this season than last, the Argentine Government is taking new measures to increase the domestic consumption of fruit and is attempting to widen the export outlets through trade agreements and by improved transportation facilities for fruit, states the report.

A constantly increasing production of pears has resulted in an increase in the exports of this fruit, some being shipped to New York in volume for the first time this year. It is believed that grape shipments to the United States will be larger this season than last. Fruit growers are favored by the ability of exporters to sell their export bills on the free market, a concession which is granted to few producers of export commodities in the Argentine writes Mr. Nyhus.

Grapes: The crop this year of both wine and table grapes in the provinces of San Juan and Mendoza is considered good and larger than last year's crop. In the beginning of the season shipments to the United States included a number of varieties, but shipments from now on will consist mostly of the Almeria variety. Few Muscatels are shipped since they do not stand up well in shipment. Market prices are somewhat better than last year, being about 3.50 to 4.00 Argentine pesos per box of 10 kilograms, equivalent to \$0.95 to \$1.10 United States currency per box of 22 pounds. Shipments from January 1st to March 1st this season were 71,008 boxes compared with 68,325 boxes during the corresponding period a year ago. The shipping season has not reached its peak, but the trade is of the opinion that shipments to the States for the entire season will exceed those of last year. a/ The following table shows exports to the United States as compared with total exports.

a/ Shipments on "Southern Prince" (March 14) are placed at 82,000 boxes.

GRAPES: Exports from Argentina to the United States
as compared with total exports, 1931 to 1935

Year	Exported to		
	United States	Others	Total
	Boxes <u>1/</u>	Boxes <u>1/</u>	Boxes <u>1/</u>
1931	328,045	238,139	616,234
1932	<u>2/</u> 343,481	217,552	561,033
1933 <u>3/</u>	354,274	190,305	544,579
1934	457,179	235,430	742,659
1935	429,131	341,002	770,133

1/ One box equals 10 kilos or 22 lbs.

2/ Includes 5,494 kegs.

3/ To May 16.

When the announcement was made in the United States that quarantine regulations on grapes were liberalized so as to permit the entry of foreign grapes into the port of New Orleans, local exporters investigated the possibility of shipments to New Orleans but because of the lack of refrigeration on ships destined for New Orleans no shipments will be made this year. An American steamship company operating out of New Orleans is reported to be adding refrigeration facilities to four boats which will be available for the next shipping season. Monthly exports in 1935 from Argentina to the United States and to foreign countries are indicated in the table which follows:

GRAPES FRESH: Exports from Argentina to the United States
as compared with total exports, by months, 1935

Month	Exported to		
	United States	Others	Total
	Boxes <u>1/</u>	Boxes <u>1/</u>	Boxes <u>1/</u>
January	5,206	914	6,120
February	63,119	20,891	84,010
March	183,607	122,077	310,684
April	143,331	119,171	262,552
May	28,818	58,313	87,131
June	---	19,636	19,636
Total	429,131	341,002	770,133

Source: "Boletin Informativo," - Seccion Comercial de la Fruta.

1/ One box equals 10 kilos or 22 lbs.

Melons: There are liberal supplies of melons this year but it is stated that country dealers in previous years have had such unsatisfactory returns from consignments to the New York market that few venture to make shipments to the States. The bulk of the exports consists of Honeydew melons, but this year a trial shipment of 225 crates of Valencias was made and which sold well in New York. Additional quantities of this variety, however, are difficult to locate. Local wholesale prices are similar to last year, or 3.50 to 4.00 pesos (\$0.95 to \$1.10) per crate of 6 to 8 melons.

A leading United States importer has transferred his representative from Spain to Argentina for the current season and it is possible that shipments may be larger than last year. Shipments to the United States in January and February of this year were 1,488 crates, compared with 1,398 crates during the corresponding period last year. Total exports to the United States consisted of 4,677 crates last year and 10,562 crates in 1934.

Pears: The shipment of pears in some volume to the United States is one of the new developments in the export fruit trade with the United States. Last year during the entire season the pear exports reached 3,755 boxes of 20 kilograms (44 pounds). In January and February of this year shipments were 14,487 boxes. The exports to the United States are small in relation to the total exports - less than 10 percent - but exporters and the Fruit Section of the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture are hopeful of a much larger pear market in the United States in the future. Local f.o.b. prices for export shipments are 5.00 to 6.00 pesos (\$1.37 to \$1.65) per box. It is believed that with the season for Williams about finished, shipments from now on will fall off sharply. Later varieties, - Winter Nelis, etc. - are so much higher in price locally that shipments of these varieties are considered improbable.

Pears for export originate in two producing districts, the Mendoza-San Juan region in the North-West and the Rio Negro Valley in the South-West. Railroad shipments from these two regions indicate quite completely the marketings in these regions, since local consumption and the movement by truck are small items. In 1935 shipments of pears by rail from the Rio Negro Valley consisted of 775,000 boxes and from the Province of Mendoza of 461,000 boxes of 20 kilos (44 lbs.).

No statistics since 1931 are available on the number of pear trees in these two regions, but particularly in the Mendoza region the number of trees set out during the past five years has been large and an informal estimate has been made that there are probably 1,500,000 pear trees in the Mendoza district at the present time, compared with 1,000,000 trees five years ago. With the progressive increase in the number of trees set out production has increased rapidly as new orchards have reached commercial production and other orchards have reached full bearing.

The Argentine Ministry of Agriculture and other agencies have adopted special measures to secure a wider distribution of fruit in Argentina and to keep retail prices at a low level so as to increase consumption. It is reported that these measures have proved remarkably successful in absorbing the larger fruit crops this year. In municipal fruit stands distributed about the city of Buenos Aires, Williams pears, extra fancy grade, retail for 30 centaves a kilogram, equivalent approximately to 7 cents in United States currency per dozen of medium sized pears. In trade agreements the government has endeavored to secure larger quotas and concessions for Argentine fruit. Several shipping companies operating between Argentina and northern European ports have provided refrigeration facilities expressly to handle Argentine fruit. Total monthly exports of pears last year and exports to the United States are included in the table which follows:

PEARS FRESH: Exports from Argentina to the United States
as compared with total exports by months, 1935

Months	Exported to		
	United States	Others	Total
	Boxes <u>1/</u>	Boxes <u>1/</u>	Boxes <u>1/</u>
January	---	18,270	18,270
February	2,300	117,013	119,313
March	350	47,216	47,566
April	115	31,341	31,456
May	1,000	14,923	15,923
June	---	1,670	1,670
July	---	1,760	1,760
August	---	250	250
Total	3,765	232,443	236,208

Source: "Boletin Informativo" - Seccion Comercial de la Fruta.

1/ One box equals 20 kilos or 44 lbs.

Plums, Peaches, Apples and Cherries: In January and February exports of plums to the United States amounted to 1,331 boxes and peaches to 1,058 boxes, compared to 1,678 and 400 boxes respectively during the same period a year ago. The boxes weigh 10 kilograms or 22 pounds. Local f.o.b. prices are 4.00 to 5.00 pesos (\$1.10 to \$1.37) per box for plums, and 3.50 pesos (\$0.95) for peaches. No significant change is anticipated in the exports of these fruits. It is stated that their prices are high in relation to the prices of other fruits available in the New York market and that the market for these fruits is limited further by their perishability. It is contended that since the market is so narrow extra shipments of a few hundred cases can easily demoralize the market. Exports to the United States of plums and peaches in 1934 and 1935 are shown in the following table.

STONE FRUITS: Exports from Argentina to the United States,
1934 and 1935

Commodity	1934	1935
	Boxes <u>1/</u>	Boxes <u>1/</u>
Plums	698	2,173
Cherries	---	40
Peaches and apricots:	784	551
Total	1,482	2,769

Source: "Boletín Informativo" - Sección Comercial de la Fruta.

1/ One box equals 10 kilos or 22 lbs.

The apple crop in the Rio Negro Valley is reported as larger than last year and shipments to the United Kingdom and other European countries are under way. In the past no shipments have been made to the United States and there are no expectations of doing so this year. Exports of apples last year (1935), chiefly to northern Europe and England, were 77,000 boxes.

